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L. D. Donahoe
August 4, 1955

RM/R
FILE

TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: G - Mr. Murphy
FROM: EUR - Livingston T. Merchant
SUBJECT: Berlin Contingency Planning - Discussion with the President

You might wish to make the following points in your discussion of Berlin contingency planning with the President:

Following the President's approval in principle last January and final tripartite agreement last April, the Three Powers have taken certain quiet military preparatory and precautionary measures which were detectable by Soviet intelligence. These measures seem to have been without noticeable effect on the Soviets, however. Perhaps the most effective measure in a psychological sense will be the transfer of Air Force units from France to Germany, although this action will have been a by-product of our difficulties with General de Gaulle rather than a move taken as part of agreed contingency plans.

In order to strengthen our position in our discussions with the Soviets by convincing them of the seriousness of our intention to maintain our position in Berlin even at the risk of war, we must undertake additional and more impressive military preparatory measures. We do not yet have any specific suggestions. Proposals for such measures will have to be worked out urgently by the Departments of State and Defense, and by General Norstad and his tripartite staff. They will also have to be discussed with the British and French in the Tripartite Group chaired by Mr. Murphy.

We should like to have the President's approval in principle for including in the additional measures some which, if they come to the attention of the public, might cause a certain amount of uneasiness but would not create an atmosphere of crisis.

Clearances:

EUR - Mr. Kohler

GER - Mr. Hillenbrand

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EUR:GER:GPA:TDM:Kiernan:aag:all

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